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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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## Reports

- [Item#1](#)  
2011: A Year of Big Stories Both Foreign and Domestic. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 21, 2011.

The threat of nuclear disaster in Japan and the killing of Osama bin Laden by Navy SEALs were two of the breaking news stories that captured the greatest amount of public attention in 2011. But Americans also

kept a steady watch on the economy at home. More than half said they followed news about rising fuel prices very closely in April, while the struggling economy remained a top story throughout the year.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/12-21-11%20NII%20Year%20In%20Review.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 112.72 KB].

#### Item#2

2011 Immigration-Related Laws and Resolutions in the States (Jan. 1-Dec. 7, 2011). National Conference of State Legislatures. December 2011.

In 2011, state legislators introduced 1,607 bills and resolutions relating to immigrants and refugees in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. This is a significant increase compared with 2010, when 46 states considered more than 1,400 bills and resolutions pertaining to immigrants. Even though more bills were introduced this year, however, 11 percent fewer were enacted. As of Dec. 7, 2011, 42 states and Puerto Rico had enacted 197 new laws and 109 new resolutions, for a total of 306. Five states, Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah, crafted omnibus laws following the example of Arizona's 2010 bill, SB 1070. These laws include provisions that: require law enforcement to attempt to determine the immigration status of a person involved in a lawful stop; allow state residents to sue state and local agencies for noncompliance with immigration enforcement; require E-Verify, an employment eligibility verification system; prohibit the harboring or transporting of unauthorized aliens; and make it a violation for failure to carry an alien registration document.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/immig/2011ImmFinalReportDec.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages, 261.27 KB].

#### Item#3

The Civic and Community Engagement of Religiously Active Americans. Pew Internet & American Life Project. December 23, 2011.

Some 40% of Americans are active in a church, religious, or spiritual organization. Compared with those who are not involved with such organizations, religiously active Americans are more trusting of others, are more optimistic about their impact on their community, think more highly of their community, are more involved in more organizations of all kinds, and devote more time to the groups to which they are active.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/PIP\\_The\\_social\\_side\\_of\\_the\\_religious.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/PIP_The_social_side_of_the_religious.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages, 895.96 KB].

#### Item#4

The Federal Food Safety Working Group Progress Report. The White House. December 2011.

Prevention is the front line of food safety defense. The [Food Safety Working Group] agencies have taken substantial steps to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness by preventing the contamination and adulteration of foods. They have focused on Salmonella, E. coli, Campylobacter, and Listeria among other causes of foodborne illness. The FSWG's accomplishments to date represent a large down payment on a stronger food safety system that will deliver greater value, better prevent illnesses and more effectively promote the well-being of the American people.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fswg\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fswg_report_final.pdf) [PDF format, 31 pages, 1.11 MB].

#### Item#5

Global Digital Communication: Texting, Social Networking Popular Worldwide. Pew Global Attitude Project. December 20, 2011.

Two kinds of digital communication that have grown increasingly popular in the United States -- texting with cell phones and use of social networks -- are also popular in many places around the world. Text messaging is a global phenomenon. Across the 21 countries surveyed by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, a median of 75% of cell phone owners say they text. Texting is widespread in both wealthy nations and the developing world. In fact, it is most common among cell phone owners in two of the poorest nations surveyed: Indonesia and Kenya.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2011/12/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Technology-Report-FINAL-December-20-2011.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages, 407.49 KB]

#### Item#6

Multilateral Political Missions and Preventive Diplomacy. U.S. Institute of Peace. Richard Gowan. December 2011.

Multilateral teams can often bring a level of expertise and impartiality to preventing conflicts that other missions cannot. With a little more support, they can be an even better tool for conflict prevention. The report is based on Review of Political Missions, a project launched by New York University 's Center on International Cooperation in 2010. The United States Institute of Peace funded this project in association with the governments of Norway and Switzerland.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/SR299.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages, 194.05 KB].

#### Item#7

Riots, Language and Britain's Globalized Underclass. YaleGlobal. Garry Robson. December 22, 2011.

Violent riots broke out in Britain in August, and researchers, searching for reasons, examined the messages relayed by rioters over social media. Many of the calls to don disguises and join the mayhem were in a dialect labeled Multicultural London English by sociolinguists and Jafaican by the media. Rough language can encourage rough behavior and, combined with limited social mobility and poverty, restrict youth opportunities. Globalization has created a multicultural underclass trapped within tight

neighborhood pockets, and some educators question if limited language and experiences reinforce dysfunctional ways. Robson concludes that Great Britain has a challenge in mainstreaming its multiethnic underclass, both globalized and trapped, and that requires candid discussions and acknowledgement that Multicultural London English is a problem.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/riots-language-and-britain%E2%80%99s-globalized-underclass> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#8

Temporary Protected Status: Current Immigration Policy and Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ruth Ellen Wasem and Karma Ester. December 13, 2011.

When civil unrest, violence, or natural disasters erupt in spots around the world, concerns arise over the safety of foreign nationals from these troubled places who are in the U.S. Provisions exist in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to offer temporary protected status (TPS) or relief from removal under specified circumstances. A foreign national who is granted TPS receives a registration document and an employment authorization for the duration of TPS. The U.S. currently provides TPS or deferred enforced departure (DED) to over 300,000 foreign nationals from a total of seven countries: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua, Somalia, and Sudan.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 229.88 KB].

#### Item#9

U.S. Trade Deficit and the Impact of Changing Oil Prices. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. James K. Jackson. December 13, 2011.

Petroleum prices rose sharply between September 2010 and June 2011, at times reaching more than \$112 per barrel of crude oil. Although this is still below the \$140 per barrel price reached in 2008, the rising cost of energy was one factor that helped to dampen the rate of growth in the economy during the first half of 2011. While the price of oil was rising sharply, the volume of oil imports, or the amount of oil imported, decreased slightly. Overall resistance by market demand to changes in oil prices reflects the unique nature of the demand for oil and an increase in economic activity that occurred following the worst part of the economic recession in 2009. Turmoil in the Middle East was an important factor causing petroleum prices to rise sharply in the first four months of 2011, which could add as much as \$100 billion to the total U.S. trade deficit in 2011.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS22204.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 260.46 KB].

#### Item#10

What's Wrong With American Housing? Brookings Institution. Anthony Downs. December 28, 2011.

In 2004 and 2005, American homebuilders created over two million new housing units per year, including mobile homes. Then housing construction plummeted to under 600,000 new units per year, a record fall of 70 percent, and home prices fell drastically too. Housing will not help lead the U.S. economy out of this recession, as it has done many times in past recessions. A major reason is that

America's housing industry suffers from nine deficiencies that limit its ability to meet our housing needs. Some of these deficiencies are not widely recognized or are even considered advantages by the housing industry. Until its problems are better and more widely understood, that industry will continue underserving U.S. housing needs, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/1228\\_housing\\_downs/1228\\_housing\\_downs.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/1228_housing_downs/1228_housing_downs.pdf) [PDF format, 17 pages, 1.21 MB].